Lady Like

Issue No. 4

Adults Only

$8.00

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GIRL TALK
Fashion & Beauty Advice!

MIRROR MIRROR
Readers Share Their Photos!

LADYLIKE PROFILE
Our Regular Feature Interview!

FEATURE FICTION
"The Incredible Shrinking Tran"

Glamour Advice By Paula Sinclair

This Issue's Profile:

Kelly Sheridan

From The Editor's Pen

"One thing that I do a lot of lately is dream about the way it could be for us in the gender community. There are so many possible ways to get the eyes of the world opened so we can go live our lives as *we* choose, not by anybody else's rules. So here is my little wish list. It's my Future View of where we could be and should be going.

✔ Guaranteed equal protection under the law against discrimination on the basis of gender-role, not physical sex or sexual preference.

✔ A gender-oriented BBS with a 1-800 toll free number.

✔ A national gender-oriented newspaper, without sex. Start out monthly and eventually move it to a weekly.

✔ A national gender archive for books, articles, cartoons, other printed matter, videos, tapes, etc.

✔ A program to help TV and TS prostitutes get off the street. Teach job skills and provide job placement with sympathetic and knowledgeable employers.

✔ A voice in setting guidelines for TS reassignment.

✔ A proactive campaign against exploitation of our community.

✔ Removal of transvestism and transsexualism from the DSM-III-R. We are NOT mentally ill.

✔ A video tape produced by the community about the community for use on Public Television stations.

✔ More communication with lesbian, gay, and feminist groups so that we learn more about ourselves and each other.

✔ More leaders, less rulers.

JoAnn Roberts"

LadyLike

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KELLY SHERIDAN

Photo by Wood Bridge Studios

LadyLike's

PROFILE

Kelly as Dolly Parton

NAME: Kelly Sheridan
AGE: Older than I will admit, 30+.
PROFESSION: Computer Analyst
RESIDENCE: Central New Jersey
HEIGHT: 6'
WEIGHT: 40 lbs. more than I should be.
MEASUREMENTS: Size 16
SHOE SIZE: 10
FAVORITE SHOE STYLE: Pump.
FAVORITE PERFUME: Poison.
FAVORITE MOVIE: Caddy Shack I; Elvira, Mistress of the Night.
FAVORITE MUSIC: R&R - Heart.
FASHION STYLES: Current styles.
FAVORITE PLACE: Haven't found it.
FAVORITE HOBBY: Military Models.
TURN-ONS: Women with wild, full hair styles.
TURN-OFFS: Women that drink beer right from the bottle.

Ladylike: *You spend a lot of time in New York City. The TV scene there has changed a lot in the past five years. Where does a TV go in New York nowadays?*

Kelly: Most of the time I spend in New York city is spent shopping. I love to go from store to store and usually walk about 40 to 50 blocks by the end of the day. I don't do this dressed. When I do go out dressed, it's usually at night with my friends Morgan and Madam-X. We go to the *Fabric Factory* on 41st street. It usually has a nice mix of people. I've been told there's a place called *Sally's Hideaway* not too far from the *Fabric Factory*, but I haven't been there. The *Pyramid Club* in the Village (Greenwich Village-Ed.) is also an option for people with a little adventure in their soul. I've been to 'straight' bars with some of my performer (Impersonators-Ed.) friends, like *Studio 54*, the *Red Parrot* and the *Paladium*. I wouldn't advise those places for people who can't handle the 'attention'.

LL: *Like a lot of other girls, you've used different femme names until you found the "right" one. How and why did you decide on Kelly?*

Kelly: Is this going to be a Barbara Walters interview? Just kidding, but you get to the meaty questions right away, don't you? I've only had two names; Cindy and Kelly. I changed my name mostly because I started doing stage appearances, but I've wanted to change it for about 3 years. I was in Philadelphia, on Hallowe'en, with friends, to attend the Henri David Hallowe'en Ball. During the day, we all took a tour of Independence Hall. Towards the end of the tour, we were in this large hall with about 100 other

Dolly wows 'em at the Poconos

people. All of a sudden I hear this voice calling out, "Cindy, Cindy." It was one of my friends calling from the opposite side of the hall. I was so embarrassed! From that day I started thinking of a new unisex name, but you know how hard it is to get your friends to call you by a new name! I chose Kelly, specifically, because I loved Kelly LeBrock in Weird Science, and Kelly McGillis in Top Gun. I chose the second part of my name for a different reason. Strangely, it's not because of a famous person or star, but the name of an airborne tank used in Viet Nam, the Sheridan. It's one of my favorite models. I won a contest with one and I cherish it. Bet you're sorry you asked that one!

LL: Not at all. I think it's important to show our other facets besides the crossdressing. You and our mutual friend Morgan are now semi-professional impersonators. Was it difficult getting bookings? What was the worst place you played?

Kelly: If it wasn't for Morgan I wouldn't be doing shows at all. One year ago, I was swearing that I would never get on stage and now I love it. I started by doing shows as the DJ for a few friends of mine that are now in the "La Cage" revues in Atlantic City and Toronto. They were sooooo good; I "knew" I could never measure up to their standard. So, I contented myself with DJ'ing and helping them change during the shows. After they left for the "Big Time", I was really getting bored. Morgan kept bugging me to do something with her and she finally wore my resistance down. I'm hooked now! I owe it to her; we're a sort of a team. I only work when she gets a booking. I've never worked a 'bad' place as a performer, but I've given a bad performance. I had a cold and I was taking cold medicine. I guess I wasn't thinking straight. I'll get over it, though. Since I don't have a juicy 'bad' place story, how

Ready for an evening on the town.

about some of the places I DJ'd for my friends? Once they did a dinner club where the sound system was located over the sink in the kitchen. I plugged my tape deck into the amp and had to stand on the sink with the waitresses going in/out of this swinging door that kept hitting me in the butt. That was an experience! They also did a show in a firehouse that had the music system in a cabinet behind where they had to perform. The door to the cabinet was almost, but not quite, big enough to hide behind. My backside stuck out from behind it and it shows in most the pictures they took that night.

LL: *Why did you pick Dolly Parton as your "on-stage" character and who else do you impersonate?*

Kelly: I picked Dolly because she has wild hair. (You know what a Hair Bear I am.) I love Dolly, but I'd much rather do Elvira. She's such a trip; talk about hair! It's funny, it's the only black hair I can get away with. I started doing Elvira two years ago at Hallowe'en. We (Morgan and Madam-X) went to a party at a 'straight' restaurant and blew the locals away. Then I started doing Elvira as the MC for your "Frite Nite" party in the Poconos. Somebody just asked me to do Elvira as a promotion for a sale in a store. I love it!

Kelly as Elvira, Mistress of the Night

Hot Stuff! Kelly for Miss Trash.

LL: *Some of your photos were done professionally and it was rather simple for you to get them done, wasn't it? I think it might be useful if you would explain how you went about setting up the session.*

Kelly: I really lucked out finding Susan. She's the most delightful person and an excellent photographer. I know of only two photography places in town. The first one I went to was closed because he had a wedding. So, I went to Susan's

studio. I had a picture that Morgan had taken of me at the AIDS Benefit we did in Trenton. I was going to use this as my publicity picture. I showed it to Sue, but she wanted "her" to come in for a photo shoot. She said that reproducing a picture from a picture wouldn't do "her" justice. She asked if I could get "her" to come in 'today'. I said it would be no problem to come in and I would think about it. The look on her face was priceless! She couldn't believe it was me in the picture. I went home and was going crazy thinking about it. I finally decided to do it. We've been friends ever since and I've introduced her to some of my performer friends. She wants to do a "coffee table" book on Female Impersonators. Morgan and I are trying to get other performers interested in the project.

LL: *What is the scariest thing that happened to you while you were dressed?*
Kelly: I've had a few experiences. The scariest thing, the one that tops the list, happened about four years ago. I was leaving the Grapevine, a club in New York, about 3:30 AM, by myself. My car was parked about 6 blocks away. As I left the club, this guy walked across the street and started talking to me like he knew me. He obviously had me confused with someone else and I told him so. He still kept talking to me and walking along with me. You know how quiet I am and I was really scared. I got to the parking garage and had to wait for an elevator. I pushed the elevator button and when the door opened, he touched my arm. I was so scared I didn't even think about what I was doing. I decked the guy; punched him square in the nose and knocked him out. I got on the elevator and left. I swore I would never go out in drag again. The next week I was out on 47th street, alone. I was young and dumb, then, I wouldn't do it now.

LL: *I know that you are sometimes mistaken for a female when you are not dressed as Kelly. How do you feel about that?*
Kelly: It's a double edged sword. It's a real trip to walk around not trying to pass and all of a sudden someone calls you "Miss". On the other hand, it makes you wonder what your co-workers are thinking about you. I'm one for keeping my private life private and don't have a need to share this with people I work with. I don't think the company I work for would view this as a desirable trait for one of their managers. My family, on the other hand, knows what I do and love to look at the pictures and the videos. We even, sometimes, go shopping together.

JoAnn Roberts and Creative Design Services Announce
a new publication:

"Speaking As A Woman", by Alison Laing

with Introduction by Dr. Bud Heuer

This is the first book of its kind for our community. Learn the fine art of feminine speech. Alison Laing has collected in one volume the "tricks" and tips you will need to develop a "passing" female voice. Available in fine boutiques or direct for $8.00 postpaid.

and don't forget about

"Art & Illusion: A Guide To Crossdressing"

Revised Second Edition, More Pages, More Illustrations, More Information, New Style Appendix

Art & Illusion is available in fine boutiques around the country. If it's not in your favorite store, ask them to order it. Or you may order direct. Enclose cash, check or money order for $10.

Paradise in the Poconos-III

A TV/TS/TG Dream Weekend in the Pennsylvania Pocono Mountains. 4 Days/3 Nights of Fun-Filled Activities. Thursday, May 18th to Sunday, May 21st.

• **Welcome Cocktail Party & Bar-B-Q** • **Mardi Gras Party with prizes** •
• **Makeover Workshops** • **Swap/Tag Sale** (bring your goodies to sell) •
• **Princess of the Poconos Competition** • **Phantasie Pholliez Amateur Talent Show** •
• **And More...** •

The complete package includes all meals, lodging, events, tax and gratuity; $250 per person, double occupancy. Our staff is composed of members of the gender community, so we understand your needs. Your maximum enjoyment is our greatest concern. Write or call for more detailed information. A $50 deposit (refundable) will hold your reservation. **Full amount must be paid by 5/1/89. No personal checks accepted after 4/15/89.**

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JoAnn Roberts

Girl Talk

Girl Talk is your forum. Any question on any topic is fair game from makeup secrets to the psychology of gender transpositions. If you have a question for JoAnn, write to her care of this magazine.

Dear JoAnn,

I enjoy dressing so much, I do it all year 'round. The problem is in summer time when I prespire, my makeup just seems to slide off. Help! Jody, ME

Dear Jody,

Summertime is a difficult time for anyone wearing makeup. Many women forgoe foundation in favor of tinted moisturizer. We, however, don't have that option. So here's what you can try. After shaving, cleanse your face with a good astringent, like alcohol. Get some Milk of Magnesia antacid and apply it all over your face with a cotton wad. Let it dry. As it dries, you will feel your skin tighten. After it is dry, buff off the excess with a clean powder puff. Now apply your regular foundation. Set the foundation with loose powder followed by a spritz of water or an astringent. The magnesium hydroxide powder in the antacid fills in the pores on your face and acts like tiny sponges to soak up prespiration and oils.

Dear JoAnn.

I am a novice and I was wondering about using a bathroom while wearing pantyhose. Any suggestions?

Kathy, IA

Dear Kathy,

Pantyhose can present a problem if you need to use the ladies room, especially if you're also wearing a panty girdle and/or gaff. Many girls prefer to wear garters and stockings because there is little fussing needed in the bathroom (and they're sexy, too). You can, however, wear pantyhose and have little difficulty in the bathroom if you modify them as follows. Make sure the pantyhose you buy has a cotton crotch. Take a pair of sharp scissors and make a vertical cut in the crotch from the top of the crotch to about midway down. Now put on the pantyhose and wear either panties or a panty girdle over the pantyhose. Now if you need to use a bathroom, you do not have to take down your hosiery, just you underwear. If you can use a needle and thread, make a few stitches at the top and bottom of the slit. The hose will last as long as any other. You can buy crotchless pantyhose, but why bother? I buy my hosiery from a discount cata-

log, a dozen pair at a time.

Dear JoAnn,

I would like to have my ears pierced but I am worried about my friends might think or say about it. Is there any way to hide pierced ears? Hillary, TX

Dear Hillary,

Yes there is a way. My dear friend Alison has pierced ears and it took me over a year to notice it. I've asked her to describe her method. Here goes. "During the week of Fantasia Fair,I had noticed with envy, one of my sister's lovely dangling earrings, hanging from pierced lobes. When I learned that she wore a three piece pinstripe suit in her other role, I had to ask her how she got away with the holes in her ears. She described to me a simple process of making little plastic plugs, which disguise the holes when not in use with earrings.

The process is quite simple. The best material to use is the milk white plastic stringers used to fasten price tags to clothing. The shiny and clear type do not work as well. Trim off the excess flat or bulky end and place the tip directly above a flame for an instant, perhaps a second. As soon as a little bulb forms, remove the plastic from the heat and flatten the bulb by pressing it against a thumb nail or another hard surface. Do not use glass or polished metal. Cut off this end about 1/4 to 2/3 of an inch. Holding this with a tweezers, heat the newly cut end into a ball. Do not flatten this one.

You should now have a small plug with a flat head on one end and a slightly rounded ball on the other. It should look like : but a lot smaller. The large flat end covers the front on the hole in your ear and the ball helps keep it in place. The length of the plug and the size of the head are a function of the thickness of your ear lobes and the size of the holes. You will have to practice to get the two ends just right. The best length will be found by trial and error. The plastic is detectable, but appears to be a small blemish and not a hole.

I clean the plugs with alcohol and then place them into the pierced holes leaving them there for weeks at a time. If your earlobe skin is darker than the plug, a tiny dot of makeup helps. The plugs tend to yellow with age which somehow makes them look quite natural.

Since they do come out on occasion, I make six to eight at a time and keep a small vial of plugs, along with a tweezers for inserting them in my shaving kit. I don't need them in my makeup kit!

It had been suggested that by having several holesin your earlobes, it makes your ears appear to have suffered chronic acne, thus providing a good camouflage for what is really there. To some of us, having a pair of shoulder dusters dangling from our ear lobes is as thrilling as a new pair of heels. And, to know they won't drop off while dancing, or that you won't have sore ears the next day, makes it worthwhile.

When you get your ears pierced, have one done at a time. One red lobe is not as suspicious as both."

Thanks, Alison. *(Reprinted with permission from the Renaissance News)*

Dear JoAnn,

I understand that you have children who know about your dressing. How do they handle it? Is one of them a boy? We're thinking about starting a family, but don't know how to handle telling the kids. Any thoughts? Sarah, NV

Dear Sarah,

I have two teenaged children, one boy and one girl. I sat them down and told them about me when they were 10/11 years old. I needed to have them know about JoAnn because of all the outreach work that I do. There was no way that I could hide from them if I had to leave early in the morning for a class. So I discussed it with my

wife and a friend who is a counselor. Nobody had a good answer as to whether or not to tell and when to tell. I had to make my own decision.

I really believe that it depends on the child and how that child was raised. My wife and I have always been very open with our kids about sex and sexuality. Even before I told them about JoAnn, they knew what a transvestite is, at least a simple definition. They also knew that some people were homosexual and some were heterosexual. I also felt that they had been exposed to a lot of different cultures in their brief lives as we had lived on both coasts. One more point; they had seen me dressed for Hallowe'en parties. So the only thing left to do was explain that I liked to dress up more often than Hallowe'en. After I was done, they seem bored. That was a few years ago.

My daughter accepts my need to dress without any reservations. She has even been out with "Aunt" JoAnn. She appeared with me on "People Are Talking" in New York. She has no problems with my crossdressing and I feel comfortable dressed around her.

My son is a different story. He has a real conflict. He says, and his actions seem to confirm his words, that he does not mind my crossdressing. There are a few instances where I have been dressed around him and is not ill at ease. His problem is that I go out of the house where "other people" (meaning his teenage buddies) might see me. Now believe me when I tell you that I could walk up to my mother in drag and she wouldn't recognize me. That makes no difference to him, nor does it make his fears any less valid from his point of view. So, we have worked out schedules and schemes for my comings and goings with some rules about when I can leave the house dressed and whether or not I return dressed or must change somewhere. It is a real pain for me, but I have to respect his needs as well as fulfill mine. What it boils down to is that no matter how good or bad I may look as JoAnn, HE knows that it is his father under all that stuff. And I guess he feels that if he can see me, so can other people.

One thing that both of them understand is that I love them very much. I have always hugged and touched my kids with affection; something my Dad never did with me until very, very late in life. I also provide discipline when necessary. I don't think that being a good parent and being a transvestite are mutually exclusive. I really feel that my children benefit from knowing that I am human and not perfect.

So, you see, the key is how you raise your kids and timing. They have to be mature enough to understand what you are telling them and mature enough to know to be discrete about it.

Dear JoAnn,

I really despise having to shave repeatedly and I quite often get ingrown hairs. Does electrolysis really work? Mary Alice, AL.

Dear Mary Alice,

Electrolysis is the only method of permanent hair removal. Whether or not a particular treatment is effective depends on the method and the operator.

When you call about a consultation, ask if the operator is licensed. Electrologists do not have to be licensed in all states to practice, but they must be licensed in order to get insurance. Also ask if they have worked on a male before. Male hair is very different from female hair and it does require some experience to be effective.

A study performed by the University of Pennsylvania concluded that the *Lucy Peters Method* of electrolysis was the most effective in providing permanent removal of hair. A specially designed probe is used to deliver all the electrical energy to the hair follicle.

An important item to note is that electrolysis is only effective on actively growing hairs. Hair follicles in a dormant state are not affected. It is recommended that hair be shaved about 10 days before a treatment so that the operator can

choose only those hairs that are actively growing. This reduces the overall costs by preventing waisted time on return visits.

Dear JoAnn,
What is your opinion of having a professional makeover? Julie, GA.

Dear Julie,
I think it is a marvelous idea, if you can afford it. Many makeup chains, like Merle Norman, have been known to accommodate our community. I'd call first to get a reading from your local shop.

How about a makeover by mail? Rex, that makeup maven and author of my favorite makeup book, *Making Up* has a new mail order makeover service. Send a color photo and Rex will mail back a sketch (and he does gorgeous work) of your new look as well as lessons on skin care and proper makeup application. He will also include a sample lipcolor, blush and eye shadow in your hues. The cost is $100, but it is worth it, since Rex is considered the current master. Or, take three 3-hour classes with the master himself for only $350. For info on both offers call 212-598-4187.

Dear JoAnn,
What is the scoop on skirt length? Are short skirts out or not? Terry, NM.

Dear Terry,
Skirt lengths are about as volatile as the stock market right now. But in answer to your question, yes, short skirts are still "IN". Length, however, is not the only factor in the success of a style. Proportion is just as important, as is shape. If you are a short (5'0" to 5'6") don't wear a skirt that is wider than it is long. For the average to tall person, a mid-knee hemline is best in a dark color with hose and heels toned to the skirt.

The most popular short skirt lengths are measured as follows; 19" should be about mid-thigh, 21" should be just an inch or so above the knee, and 24" should be just at the center or slightly below the knee.

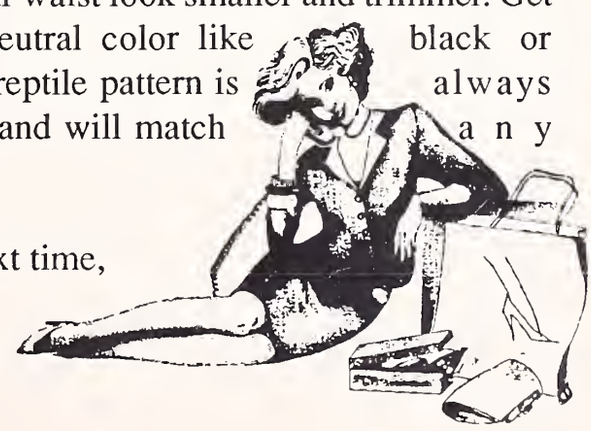
Here is another look slim tip. A straight skirt makes your figure look slimmer by outlining a slender silhouette. If you wear a size 16 or larger, you should have your skirts taken in from the hip line down to the hem as a routine matter. The ease built into larger sizes is often too much for us slender-hipped/big-waisted girls.

Dear JoAnn,
I would like to have some cosmetic surgery done. Particularly, I want my nose reshaped and maybe cheekbone implants. Where do I find a surgeon? Barrie, MN.

Dear Barrie,
Many cosmetic surgeons now advertise their services. You want to look for someone who is "Board Certified" as a cosmetic or plastic surgeon. The American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery has set up this hot line and will provide you with information on types of surgery and referrals in your area. Call 1-800-221-9808.

Dear JoAnn,
I have a figure that is straight from waist to hips. What can I do to create a more feminine figure? Rita, TX.

Dear Rita,
If you just have a thick waist, add a two inch wide belt to your store of accessories. It will make your waist look smaller and trimmer. Get a dark neutral color like black or taupe. A reptile pattern is always a classic and will match any outfit.



'Til next time,
Hugs,
JoAnn

The Phoenix Society

Republic of South Africa

If the proliferation of clubs and societies catering for the needs and interests of transgenderists throughout the world is any indication, crossdressing, in all its aspects, is on the increase. Or, is it the fact that acceptance of the transvestite and the transsexual is gradually becoming more widespread with the growth of desktop publishing and greater ease of communication, among other factors. Is the world at large becoming more informed and many of the countless crossdressers starting to become visible and emerge from the loneliness of their closets?

This would appear to be the case in the experience of the Phoenix Society here in South Africa, which was founded six years ago by our President, Marlene. Through her dedication and, in the beginning, single handed efforts, it has grown from a handfull of members, survived the hazards of infancy, and is flourishing with an active south African membership in excess of eighty and a significant number of overseas members in Britain, North America, Australia, and Malta.

Eighty may not sound like a large number compared with some of the TV groups in the USA and in Europe, but it should be remembered that South Africa is a large country, geographically, with a small and widespread population comprised, to a great extent, of a macho oriented and somewhat Calvinistic society. Even so, we are well aware that Phoenix represents but the tip of the Transvestic iceberg.

Phoenix is a self-help support group and welcomes persons involved with all levels of transgenderism. A short while ago our first female-to-male transsexual, soon to undergo reassignmnet, became a member of the Society. Perhaps we are strangely fortunate in not having club premises of our own and have avoided, to any great extent, the pitfall of contempt and intolerance between transvestite and transsexual, extrovert crossdresser and closet queen, that I could not help but be conscious of when I lived in Britain. Meetings and social events do take place from time-to-time in the main centers, Cape Town, Durban, and Johannesburg, most often in the home of of one member or another. These gatherings rarely consist of more than a dozen people, to a large extent because of the distances and time involved in travel.

A highlight in the life of a Phoenix member is the arrival in the mail of our magazine *Fanfare* which is published every second month. Despite the fact that it is produced on a domestic word processor and reproduced by means of photo copying, we feel some justification in being proud of our publication. Under Marlene's editorship, it has a good mix of fact, fiction, news, information and comment. In addition, *Fanfare* has been the subject of a great deal of praise and acclaim from overseas and much of its content is often reprinted in sister magazines and newsletters throughout the world. We all hope that it will not be too long before membership will reach the level where a professional typesetting , reproduction and printing is justified and affordable. A major portion of the Phoenix Society's income goes toward the production and distribution of *Fanfare*. Postal charges alone being a heavy drain on finances which come from membership fees. These are kept to a low level, currently at about the equivalent of $15 yearly.

Books about TVs and TSs and such literature have never been easy to obtain in South Africa, and the comprehensive collection of books in the Phoenix library, available on loan to members, are very precious and virtually irreplaceable. Of recent years, it has become increasingly difficult to obtain foreign currency from the S.A. Reserve Bank and the exchange rate of the Rand, against most currencies, is greatly in our disfavor. In addition, such items attract an import duty of 100% and have to run the gauntlet of the customs authorities. The guardians of

our public morality, The Publications Control Board, are inclined to look upon such things with disfavor, and as "undesireable", thus subject to censure and destruction.

Because of this situation *Fanfare Publications* has come into being. Phoenix is fortunate in having a number of imaginative and lucid writers who, within the past eighteen months have produced upwards of a dozen illustrated books of TV fiction, with more to follow shortly. As well as domestic sales, a number of these titles have been purchased by TV/TS organizations abroad.

Education has always been of prime importance to the Phoenix Society, not only of its members, but the public in general as well, in the belief that the better we know ourselves—the better we are able to understand our condition and cope with the world at large. Thanks largely to the efforts of Marlene, and more recently Joy, Phoenix has enjoyed a great deal of favorable publicity in the way of feature articles in some mass circulation family magazines and national newspapers. A great triumph, in light of the fact that transvestism and transsexuality were almost unmentionable subjects in the media, up to a few years ago.

One sad disappointment was when the S.A. Broadcasting Corporation produced a sixteen minute television feature on Joy, our membership secretary and one of our transsexual members, who has had the courage to live her life as a full-time female, and in doing so went through a great deal of trauma and lost her job for eighteen months. The film was scheduled to be screened in the Sunday evening peak hour program "50/50" and was cancelled by the "powers that be" at the last moment.

The present major project at hand is the publication of a book, written and compiled by Marlene and Joy, titled "The Transgender Phenomena". It will endeavor to explain all aspects of transgenderism in the hope of bringing some degree of knowledge and understanding to the public at large. It is intended to distribute this volume free of charge to medical doctors, judges and magistrates, editors and 'agony aunt' columnists, psychiatrists and psychologists, educators, etc. throughout the country. We find that ignorance of the subject outside our own community, even on the part of medical fraternity and those in authority, to be alarming. We hope that this project will do a little to help alleviate the situation.

I sincerely believe that we, the transgenderists of the world, are, to borrow Phaedra Kelly's phrase, "a Nation Within Nations" and as such able to rise above national boundaries, prejudice and politics. As you see, the Phoenix Society is alive and well, flourishing and trying to do its share to benefit and bring about understanding on behalf of all transgenderists, whoever and wherever they may be.

My love to all my dear sisters, known and unknown - everywhere. Thelma.

Now meet the ladies of Phoenix (See photos on next page).

Zulpa is a TS from Port Elizabeth and is currently seeking reassignment surgery. She is married and will remain so until her surgery. She also has 2 young sons.

Jane is a TV, formerly from Pretoria but now living in Sweden. She still maintains her Phoenix membership. Jane was married but is now divorced and living with a girlfriend. Jane has a 5 year old daughter.

Linda is from Johannesburg. She is single and never married. She is undecided about being a TV or a TS, but she is happy with her life. Linda is obsessed with the idea of making the world understand the aspects of true Duality.

Sandra is a TV from Plettenberg Bay. Sandra never married because she thought no woman could ever accept crossdressing, until she met Marlene's wife. Sandra has since embarked on a mission to make up for lost time with the ladies and is currently involved with three women, all of whom know and approve of Sandra! (No photo)

Joy is a TG who was married, but whose wife threw her out when her preference for dressing was revealed. Joy decided to live full time as a female and to Hell with the consequences! As a result Joy lost her wife, children and job. This picture is of Joy dressed for only the second time. Now, three years later, Joy has a new job (as a woman) and a social life second to none. There is still a lot of sadness at the loss of her children, but she accepts this as part of the price she had to pay. Joy is also Membership Secretary of Phoenix and Marlene's 'Right Hand Woman'.

Marlene is a TS, the President of Phoenix, and married, very happily, to a woman who is an absolute angel. She is certain that without the love, understanding and help from her spouse, she would have killed herself long ago. Marlene does not intend to have reassignment and explains why, "If by some miracle I could be changed into a 100% woman, I'd jump at the chance. Being very realistic, however, I'm perfectly aware that a sex-change is truly impossible. After all the pain, risk and discomfort is over, I'd still be a man — castrated and with an artificial vagina, but still a man. This isn't for me and I intend to do the best I can under the circumstances. In any case, I firmly believe that one doesn't NEED the sex-change operation to be able to live as a woman. I don't live full time yet (9 hours per day at work I have to behave as a man as best I can), but hope to switch over full time in 1989. I'm looking forward to it very much."

Jane

Joy

Marlene

Linda

Zulpa

The Ladies of Phoenix

Cover art from various issues of FANFARE, the official publication of the Phoenix Society, RSA.

An Oriental Influence

a perspective by Phaedra Kelly

History is what the Japanese have, and, with a sharp consciousness of it, a dedication to whatever they do which has spread around the world. Bowie sang of being 'under Japanese influence' during his gender-crossing period, and the particular duality of Nipon Transgender imbued the whole 'Gender Bender' culture in the West from then on. Even post-Bowie artists, Boy George and contemporaries, while begrudging The Master's influence on them, flirted with the kimono as a symbol of their androgyny. What reason was there for Western culture to court the style of a nation which, on the globe, lies exactly opposite to Britain? We have our own gender-transients with a similar history and nature.

The answer is; opposites attract. Not a cliché, but an exact statement in almost every respect. West; good health means deep breaths in. East; life begins with breathing out. Everything from exercise to language is emphatically outgoing, or not at all. Becoming transgendered (in Japan) is the choice to be the third gender, not a homosexual (although they have something comparable to that now), but an honored being, prized and respected by both the other genders. Theatrical traditions are the ones first known to Europeans - the Kabuki and the Noh theaters - which influenced late 19th and early 20th century Western composers to imitate their style of simplicity (but not the transformations) and their multi-media circus which involves song, dance, acrobatics and some deadly looking stunt work, along with the tradition of male to female transformation.

Shakespearian and his contemporaries plays were originally performed in a similar way. An elite company of young boy actors were trained as male actresses to play female roles. At first, it was thought more dignified that women not tread the boards (i.e. act for those not familiar with stage terms.) Demarcation of roles was a common practice beginning with early Miracle Plays that told the life of Christ and Bible Stories. So many different players came through counties that the Church high fathers dictated that key roles must be given to single families, so that little facial difference would be noticed from one company to another by a simple audience, making for more authenticity in the religious themes. For example, Devils Death were played by the De'arthe or Deathe families, now proper surnames in England. The Lakers (my family) played angels and Saints, as ' a Laker' was then another word for an actor. With families needing to breed to keep their company of players stocked, the women's work became backstage in the main, and boys, who had often to do dual chores in families lacking girls, took female roles.

With the Civil War and the Puritan uprise, things were to change. In 1642 the Puritans closed down much of the theaters, as they are now trying to do again, by picking on the male actresses as an encouragement to sodomy. The Stage returned slowly, and when in 1660 Margaret Hughes (one of the first ever 'actresses' of female gender) took the part of Desdemona, more than that change was proven. Puritan fear of Transgender as 'subversive' and 'anarchistic' was crowed aloud to the public in this prologue; "The woman plays today. Mistake me not. No man in gown, or

page in petticoat...In this reforming age we have intent to civilize our stage." For "reform" read the same ignorant prudery we have today, and for much the same reasons.

Though our way is enduring, we lack the opportunities of Japan where the exact opposite occurred. Twelve, or possibly more, centuries of popularity and liberty make them strong. Kyoto nobles of the Fujiwara period reveled in it and competed with each other for costume and poise in the arts. Bhuddism, imported from China, embraced the Transgender philosophy of duality. An androgynous look was favored by monks who felt that celibacy meant not having sex with the opposite gender, so the "third" gender was alright. Courting an attractive intersexual boy was made popular by General Nobunaga, whose warriors swiftly imitated the custom and kept Transformer lovers closer to them than their own wives. It was later, however, in Tokyo's early days as a capital under Tokugawa Ieyasu, that the Kabuki actors, called "onnagata" won their victory.

In those days only women acted in Kabuki. The women, however, took up the practice of giving 'private' performances for special customers after the show. The authorities were offended at the warriors behavior with these women and, in 1624, took action to forever ban woman as actresses and installed all males in Kabuki. Thus was Kabuki born as we know it today.

The male actresses were not much more chaste than the women. In fact, they were more highly prized and fetched higher rates for their 'after hours' services, so that in 1652 Kabuki was once again shut down. It was reopened again with male actresses, but with strict rules of behavior so that the chastity of the transvestite should be observed.

When Kabuki first played in England with an all European cast in the 1970's, the players were of both genders, the "third" gender being swept aside. Raw homosexuality has a firm foothold in Western theater, shunning transformers and their "swirly frocks" as too obvious. Self-confidence in true Duality has

been diluted in the extreme. Even Manet's *The Maids*, written for three male actresses, has only once been done in England without women in the roles. Only when Kabuki is imported intact from Japan can it be seen unchallenged and in its original form. But, even the onnagatas do not escape unscathed from the grudging feminist reviews that cant about the "cuteness" of it's "old world" transconscience. As someone once said, "Critics are the people sent in after a battle to shoot the wounded."

Japan, itself, has suffered cross-referencing from the West — the wave has gone round the world to come home. In the 1960's the remnants of the original "street" transgendered could still be vaguely recognized under some Western fashion influences. Like Singapore's Kai Tai, the Sister Boy, and her less regarded relative the Shimbashi Girl, plied her trade in selected bars of Tokyo. Shimbashi were named after their postal district and were more the casual TV trade, while the Sister Boy was a 'lifer', living the part and equal to a courtesan. Western influence, by trade and invasion, has subverted the concept so that they are now "homosexuals", rough trade, cold hearted, displayed meat rack style, without a trace of androgyny. Theirs is a sad and different story.

These male 'Geisha' girls could be expensive, but would forget the fee for love. They prefer European men over Japanese, since the native will not "touch" them, but demands the he be "touched" and serviced orally. Western men tended to be more "sharing". The Sister Boys of the 1960's broke even between the two worlds and proved no liberating stepping stone to feminism in Japan, being as much the chattel of a male dominated culture of Samurai Warrior myth as their wombed sisters.

Geisha kimono is worn in the female style by the Sister Boys. The kimono is a costume designed for the chastity of the whole body as sex is not the job of a Geisha. Relaxing art is her mission and, after the tea ceremony, sex may be bartered for separately, and at a

higher rate. Looking is what the customer is there for and the one anatomical feature that the kimono is meant to uncover is the neck. Japanese think this the sexiest part of any woman. Given the anatomy of male necks, you have some idea of the necessary dedication of a Sister Boy. Also, cool hands are thought feminine, so sitting for hours with palms on iceblocks was cosmetic. "Cold hands, Warm heart." is a way of life, so much so that when a French TS nightclub troupe was on tour in Japan, they let it be known that they were available to the highest bidders. There were no takers. The Japanese men felt that "women" who had undergone so much surgery would be lifeless and uninteresting lovers. Sister Boys spurn the surgical solution as a cheat to their skills and emotions.

One cosmetic mania from the West, slacks and tight silk slit-skirts, ala Suzy Wong, brought into fashion buttocks. The Nippon buttocks are of negligible proportions and padding for the hips and rump is sold as openly to women as to Transformers. Busts, however, are ignored, often left out all together, as the style of batwing sleeves and folds negates the use of pads. Sister Boys were a common sight and some ran their own bars, much favored by tourists. They would travel the world making friends, female throughout, and never once suspected. One lived opposite me for a time and it took me two years to work out that "she" was a male. In 1969, Peter, A Sister Boy and forerunner of Boy George became famous in the East until it was discovered that "she" had a wife and children. Imagine being trashed by the press for being caught out a heterosexual!

By the 1980's Boy George was carried to Tokyo on the returning wave, long before he was popular in the West. Sister Boys who had only just got over being street-Bowies became street-Georges instead. Japan has a habit of returning perfected to the West what was borrowed from its culture, so this last change may or may not be for the best.

The "Ant. Trading Co.", a.k.a. The Elizabeth Club, in Tokyo is unlike other tran groups. It is not "self-help" in a land where

children laugh and play with a Transformer as if she were a trusted Nanny. (Here, in the West, they shout something rude, in the least.) The Elizabeth Club has a waiting list for entry and a time limit on membership to accommodate that. It goes on sponsored trips around Japan in luxury coaches, does fashion shows, produces a color magazine called "Queen" and has an international associate membership. If we were to work hard, dig up our racial identity as a third gender, reassess our history for ourselves, we too could be that free and appreciated in ten years.

The East is not all a bed of roses for our sisters in this Nation within Nations. In Singapore, Western prudery has turned the Tai Kai into a much more common prostitute than she ever was. The Singapore Times heralds the police going through the motions of a raid once a year. The charge always being a theft of a wallet from an Aussie tourist with the name Barry Carrew , every year! The truth is that the Black Market vendors on Bugis St. use the Kai Tai as scapegoats to hide from the law. The girls mainly pose for photos these days being off-limits to the services (officially) and kept by rich native lovers. "End Of An Era" is the headline each year and the Western businesses seem placated.

In Hong Kong, Transgender is driven even more underground by the twisted prudish logic of Chinese Big Business tourist trade. With the threat of mainland Communism looming as the franchise runs out, the jackboot at their necks will change color but not position. In Bangkok, Thailand, street Trans are indistinguishable from beautiful women. The cabarets, run by Thai-style mafias, are family and tourist entertainment, housed in modern buildings and doing good business.

By tracing the line of our societal role back up the wave to and from Japan, we might be able to save ourselves and our sisters. The Tokyo group seems to have embraced all the trappings of our own fetish; pencil skirts, bikinis, stockings and most often the traditional Western white wedding gown. Clothes alone may be a topic for opening negotiations, but let us hope that we can learn something more than that from them.

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MIRROR MIRROR

Whether through the looking glass or a camera lens, sisters are always anxious to see the results of their transformation artistry.

Janice - Philadelphia, PA

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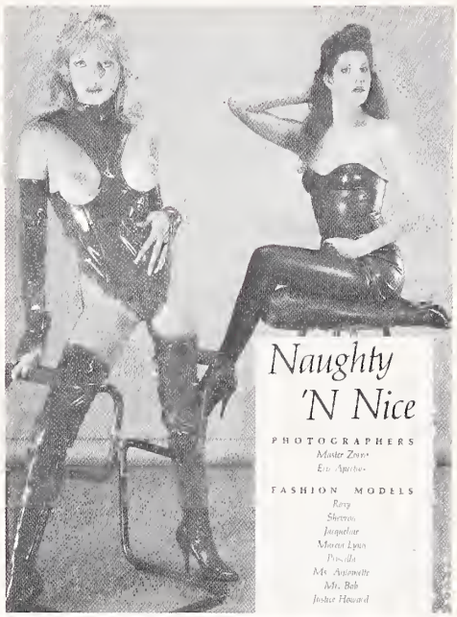

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The INCREDIBLE Shrinking Tran

A Science Fiction Novella by Phaedra Kelly - Part 1

Sherry and Joel were devoted to each other. They shared a common understanding which had been made all the closer, by Joel revealing to Sherry his other self, Irma.

Though their sex life was conventional, without being unexciting, whenever Joel was Irma, she became celibate.

Sherry had shared Irma's view that it was not a sexual hobby, but a way of life - part of the totality of Joel. Joel, in turn, had seen that he must balance the two lives, to avoid the suffocation of his male self by the female pole of him as much as to give Sherry and himself, indeed, Irma too, a turn in rhythm with the flow of their whole lives together.

Though not obsessively secretive, they kept most of this to themselves and shared the truth only with a few well balanced friends of both genders. But, Irma, with Sherry's help blossomed into a beautiful woman who always had her turn to walk in the sun like every other human being. Lately, it had been Joel whom Sherry had come home to and Irma had been resting. Something was not quite right, something unusual had begun to happen today. Joel felt irritated, over-active, unable to concentrate on the drawing board. So he had gone walking in town and bought Irma a satin jumpsuit suitable for lounging around when at home. He had not expected it to fit, and took it up to Irma's boudoir in the converted loft to improve the finish on some of the hems and take it out with insets. The irritating cerebral itch, along with the nervous tingle of flesh he had experienced earlier, was easing with the transformation... but once cosmetic and hair were suited to the test, the emerging Irma got a surprise... every Tans dreams of losing a little height and excess size, but just a little, not a lot, not suddenly, not increasingly. Irma is worried!

The image in the mirror is more slender than ever before, the suit is loose, her old shoes are loose, every accessory is out of proportion to a slight degree, which Irma's (Joel's) trained artistic eye notices instantly. Irma uses her own long, dark auburn hair, which Joel keeps tied in a mannish ponytail. Now free and feminine, it seems longer, it is the only part of her which seems not to have shrunk to a new proportion. She hears Sherry arrive...

The atmosphere in the room is picked up very quickly by the intuitive Sherry. Usually a calm intelligent woman, she is momentarily thrown by her own worst suspicions.

"Irma what's wrong? You're so tense, standing there in the dark. Tell me, just tell me, darling. Whatever it is, we can face it together. It's not another woman, is it? It's not..."

Irma waits for the list to finish tumbling out before calming her sister (wife) and explaining.

"Whoa there! It's nothing as extreme as that. It's medical, I think. Sherry, how tall are you? Maybe 5'4"? So, how

come we're seeing almost eye to eye? I'm wearing almost 3" heels, and by my last medical checkup I'm supposed to be 6'2"!!!!! But. I'm not! Honey, I'm scared too. I need a hug."

Logic is defied by it all. But, they had faced the irrational before and stood it together.

Irma woke late with a Queen size headache. A result of oxygen-debt. The bed had grown bigger. She had grown smaller in the night and, now, constant struggling through the night to disentangle herself from the heavy blankets had exhausted her. At last, lost in the fur blankets, she had gasped for air and shallow breathed until her native instinct for survival made her struggle up for air. Sherry was long gone to work. Irma felt lonely and a touch desperate. The depression had set in for them both since a friend with usually good eyesight had, at close range, mistaken Irma for Sherry's niece. An embarrassing silence had followed and their social life faded within it.

Two weeks had now passed since Irma/Joel had discovered the shrinking and she had lost four inches in height. She got up and spent the morning trying to draw and catch up on work. Her hands had become so small now that perspective changed; she found herself restrained by excess detail, unable to fill the paper. All attempts to reach out widely enough to make the picture profound were hampered by her shortened arms. Sherry came in at six to find Irma meditating. Her eyes, fixed on nothing, were bland with exhaustion and tears. Sherry took the matter in hand, visiting their GP in the off hours. All he could do was to refer them to specialists. At least the visit made some sense of the situation; someone else was mystified as well...that sharing made them both feel a little better.

Though sleeping through the night together was becoming a hazard for Irma, as Sherry's size remained the same in, they found new horizon's in physical sex. It was like the episode in the uncensored Gulliver's Travels, when Gulliver meets the giant women who nestle him to their bosoms. Except that Irma was not repulsed, as the fictional traveler had been, by the detail of Sherry's skin pores. Both achieved some physical delight in these adventures, but what they truly began to miss was the ability to just cuddle close in love. There being more of Sherry to embrace began to lose its psychological value. The greater flesh became less a body and more a wilderness.

This was the state three weeks later when the specialists were ready to see Irma. She noticed the pain of human voices and outside sounds on her way to the hospital, at the same time realizing that Sherry had known instinctively to lower and soften her voice to accommodate Irma's ever changing audio-sonic tolerance. Love and intelligence from her wife such as that moved her deeply.

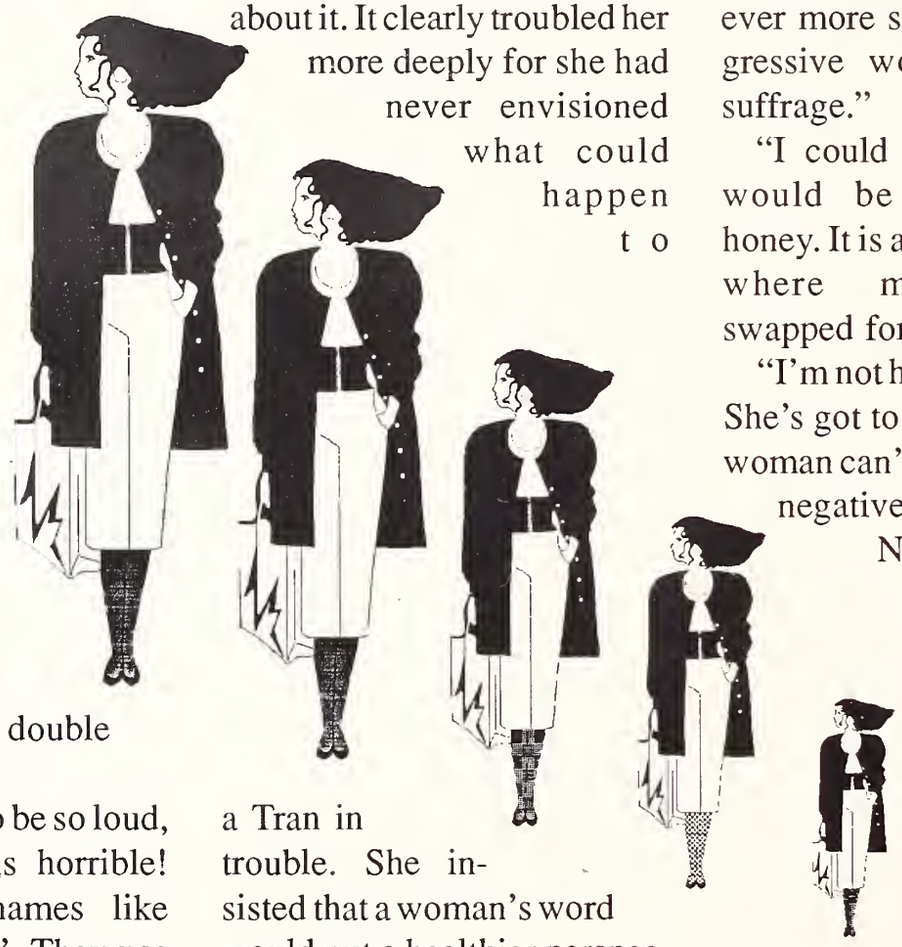
More tests were the verdict of the specialists. Blood, bone marrow and various kinds of scrapings, brain scans, X-rays, samples of everything, and endless photographs. None of them could concur on cause or cure. Sherry and Irma made a decision on which they did agree; it could do no more harm (for all they knew it might help) for Irma to go on a course of feminizing hormone pills and remain in female mode.

"We're attempting pituitary growth hormone, we may as well try this too", mumbled one. "Exactly, excess or deficiency, we won't know till we try", said the second. A third specialist studied a computer display on dosage amounts, an unsettling smirk on his lips. Perhaps, they both wondered, it's only the coldness of the academic mind.

They left refusing the three men's plea that Irma be admitted for study and yet more tests. Home would be no less hopeless than a hospital lab.

By the next morning the media had somehow picked up

the story. Their newsagent has — thoughtfully, he imagined — delivered every national newspaper to their door. Outside, the press and television media had gathered with the not unexpected crowd of gawking public. Irma shrank from the din that Sherry could hear through the double glazing. Sherry sealed the doors with cushions and moved the tinier-still Irma to a central room where, together, they scanned what had been written. Momentarily forgetting herself, Sherry's groan of anguish and anger made Irma double up in agony.



"Oh! I'm sorry to be so loud, darling, but this is horrible! They call you names like 'kinky' and 'weird'. They use only your male name. They suggest such horrible things...My God! Their minds; how can they think like that? Have they no sensitivity at all?

"No, my love, precious little. What they can't believe, they won't help, and they can't help not believing. It's easier for their minds to be sick and smutty, like a cage-bored animal learns to love it's own muck. We can't do anything about it."

"Oh yes we can. There are laws..."

"It all takes time and time we don't have. Let it pass. Just be as close as we can for as long as we can."

But Sherry was adamant about it. It clearly troubled her more deeply for she had never envisioned what could happen to a Tran in trouble. She insisted that a woman's word would put a healthier perspective on it and Irma agreed, doubtfully, to let her try.

Nancy, a freelance journalist that Sherry found through a small cooperative legal pressure group, visited the next day. She taped some perfunctory questions on cassette and scowled her way through monosyllabic comments about how 'disgusting' it all was. Irma suspected the comment to be double-edged, but Sherry seemed consoled and confident, for one night at least, so she said nothing.

"The Shrinking World Of Sexism" was the headline when the article appeared. Nancy had seen the whole thing as symbolic of the "small world of transvestism, getting ever more smaller in the progressive world of women's suffrage."

"I could have told you it would be revenge-speak, honey. It is a sad world outside where machismo gets swapped for feminichismo."

"I'm not having it, I tell you! She's got to answer for this. A woman can't...shouldn't be so negative."

Nancy was asked back that afternoon. Sherry, wisely, kept her temper on the telephone, though her knuckles went white as Irma, unavoidably, overheard the cooing words of forced-sympathy, "...leave him, for God's sake. He's made this mess himself. It's all they deserve for stereotyping women. Come into refuge with me. There are other women here..."

"Just come round will you? We can discuss it." Sherry hung up. Irma ducked under a chair and hid her head under a

cushion, but she still heard the furious scream.

An hour later, Nancy's presence hung heavily in the house. The woman herself was a perfect stereotype of every bad feminist that the press had ever lampooned. She lacked the sensibility, or sensitivity, to realize it of herself. Irma kept her silence and watched the encounter, wishing that Sherry had made contact with any one of the thousands more positive feminists in the world. For Nancy's sake, she wished that the journalist would know when to keep her mouth shut.

Sherry's lowered voice purred with chilling fury as she broke the purpose-filled silence between them.

"What the Hell did you think you were doing? Call yourself a woman? Irma warned me that all journalists are a perverse sub-species of humanity, but I really thought that someone who campaigns for the rights of the underprivileged would know what love is supposed to be like and be able to write about it in human terms. You turned my Irma into a political tool to be waved in the face of men. You inadequate slime-bag..."

"Oh, come on, sister. You've fallen for this pig's sexist propaganda?"

"Don't you 'sister' me. You may think you're a hard-assed superdyke, but your bravado doesn't impress me."

"Look, leave the pervert. Any man who'd wear a dress..."

Irma closed her mind to the words her ears couldn't escape. It was just the echo, in female voice, of all the male gutter-press she'd ever heard or read. More urgently, she noticed Sherry's muscles tighten and remembered that her wife's ability in unarmed combat made what Sherry obviously had in mind illegal and deadly. Irma was angry too, but, fortunately, too small for her matching skills to be fatal.

At a mere four feet tall, Irma's dash was barely noticed in Nancy's peripheral vision. She leaped from the back of the armchair, into a jack-knife position and unclasped in the air to aim both heels in a precise and forceful kick. It connected with Nancy's jaw, and even with Irma's diminished weight, carried the woman backwards to the ground.

Nancy was too stunned yet to retaliate when Sherry closed on her, lifting the woman by her lapels and growling into her face.

"Get out of my house! Go tell the world's press that a man in skirts hit a woman in trousers to save a woman in a skirt from ripping your head off! Be sure to tell them that Irma is more woman than you'll ever be, and more man than you'll ever have...if you could get a man at all."

Sherry shook her and released her with a push. Nancy retreated sullenly, rubbing her jaw in an impression of a female James Dean. She turned on her heels and left.

Irma was lying on the floor when Sherry returned from the door. At first she thought that something was wrong; a delicate bone broken or an internal organ ruptured by the exertion. Sherry rushed over and gathered Irma into her arms.

"Are you OK ba...honey?"

"Yes, I'm alright. You used to call me 'baby' freely, now you check yourself. Don't. I'm a lot stronger than that.

"There's a lot of things that I've been holding back but I see what you mean, baby. I won't do it any more. I won't get angry but I will get eve."

"Skip it Sherry. Just let it ride."

" Well...maybe. It's OK now — you can wear teenage clothes — but what happens when you're down to kids sizes? Can you stand what they will say and write then? Your bust will be growing by then."

"It might grow — it might not. I might grow again. Just let the experience flow and we'll see. If nothing else, it's an adventure for us both."

Sherry sat down with Irma in her arms still, and they rested close, unable to look each other in the eyes, for heights sake and for feelings

sake.

Irma watched the lint floating in the sunbeams that strayed from a chink in the curtain. Another splash of light rimmed the corner of the window frame near Sherry's head. In that silence Irma gazed pensively at the light's gilding of her wife's lovely hair.

She put her own small hand up and fanned the fingers. They had the elegance of proportionate length, still; slender and straight, artist's hands. But, the skin had taken on a luminosity, and Irma thought that she could almost see through her own flesh. ("Not invisible, too", she thought.)

"What are you thinking about, pensive one?", Sherry asked, now much calmer.

"Light. Light and time. Latch your wristwatch to a light beam and it would still tick, but the hands would not move. That's because time is relative to velocity. And that is why ole Professor Einstein wrote "Space is Love." In this space I love you forever. Nancy may have been right that our world is small, but no one ever said that small world is bad. It's better, perhaps, to be small and big-hearted than big and small-minded. Darling, I love you. More than that, I like you. Whatever happens to me I want you to be happy. I'm sorry, so sorry, you have had to go through all this."

"Oh, Irma...Joel, both of you in one being, enough of you to love, and yet, I want more of you. If only they could see. If only they knew what you are really like."

"Well, that's it, isn't it? They won't ever know me because they don't know themselves. This transformation of mine they see as the darker side of a being, worn on the outside, because their other self is dark, It has no name, no part of their identity. It is ever lurking in their minds. It won't be long now before they say that this shrinking in s divine retribution. Maybe it is. There's two kinds of that too, bad and good. Not good for you, though. Again, I'm sorry that I got us into this."

"No, darling, it's not your fault you...". She hesitated. Irma laughed, turning to look up into her face.

"Not my fault I transform or shrink?"

Sherry saw the joke, suddenly, and laughed, too.

"Both", she sputtered through her giggles.

They relaxed with some wine through the evening and Irma tried to calm Sherry, explaining that it would only be a matter of time before the media went full circle and instead of plaguing their neighbors for gossip, interviewing them.

"All you have to do is go outside now for it to happen."

"Yes, but how much truth could seep into that mobile turkey ranch of reporters?"

Irma knew Sherry was right, but what to do about it she didn't know. Even the doctors had no more to go on to help her, and might as easily referred to the movies of the incredible shrinking men and women. They agreed to just stay in close touch and see what happened. The wine helped sleep and their feelings to heal once more.

When Irma awoke the next morning, she found a note. Sherry had left on a quest like a knight errant, unable to beat down her own angry obsession. She vowed to do as much as she could to get help for Irma, both medical and social, through the news media. She had left a list of provisions and set them out within easy reach. Irma wondered just how long they would remain reachable? How long would her beloved Sherry be away? And, though this dedication helped them both, how much harm might this separation do?

"Oh Sherry, darling. God make you be in time! God protect my love", she sobbed.

To Be Continued...

Please let us know what you think about Irma's plight. Should we continue to follow her exploits? You decide.-Ed.

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A More Glamorous You

By Paula Sinclair

Despite your feelings about the new occupants of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., there is no denying that probably no First Lady since Jackie Kennedy had as much influence on fashion as did Nancy Reagan. Although she got in a little hot water because of her "borrowing" of haute couture clothing after she had promised to just say no to the fashion "pushers," the brouhaha didn't dim the fashionable sheen she brought to her husband's administration. We're talking style here, not politics. Although, there are those who would say the last eight years in Washington have been nothing but style and had no substance. Remember the famous "Red China" flap? No, not *that* Red China, but the scarlet dinnerwear that was bought by anonymous Republican donors. Or how about the "Style Wars" that reportedly raged between Mrs. Reagan and Mrs. Gorbachev while their husbands were discussing Star Wars at the summit conference in Iceland? But also remember that it was Nancy Reagan probably helped American women rediscover the value of nearly timeless, classic clothes. After all, who else could wear an eight-year-old dress by Adolfo to the Republican National Convention last summer and get written up in *USA Today* for being trendy?

♥ ♥ ♥

Judging from the Paris designs for spring and summer, you can be like Nancy Reagan too; almost anything you find in the back of your closet will be trendy. Do you have a cache of minis that you can't bear to part with? You can still wear them, but with flats, not heels. How about an acid green jumper that has been buried since the late '60's? Bright (some would say shocking) colors are in this season. Or how about a fringed, paisley shawl that looked so smashing with those harem pants a dozen years ago? Dig them up and get 'em to the dry cleaners. The big French fashion houses, where most trends begin, showed a little bit of everything at the spring shows last October. But later in the month, the American designers—with the exception of Geoffrey Beane—presented lines that were *tres* conservative.

According to store buyers and fashion industry insiders, designers are still smarting from the mini skirt disaster of a years ago. Retailers have yet to recover from the boycott, and if the salons and boutiques don't buy, the designers don't make money. Hence, the European collections that feature something for everyone. This logic works

even better when applied to the American collections. As one observer put it, "the bubble skirts had burst."Another called the collections "boring" but says they will sell well. On both sides of the Atlantic, spring will be a season of individual, comfortable dressing with only a handful of rules.

At both the Paris and New York shows, the broad-shouldered silhouette lost favor to the total A-line or trapeze line—narrow shoulders flowing into a longer, fuller skirt or wide-cut trousers. "The era of aggressive clothes is over," said Lynn Manulis, president of the Martha speciality stores. "As we move into the '90s, clothes will get softer, more refined and fluid." ***CROSSDRESSING TIP**: A truly natural shoulder—no padding at all—makes your male bone structure stand out. A small, thin pad that does nothing more than artificially extend the drop of the sleeve results in a more feminine look for all but the smallest-shouldered transvestite. A slightly wider shoulder also makes your waist look slightly smaller—that's an optical trick that works despite the current fashion dictates.*

Bill Blass was almost alone among American designers in turning his back on the trapeze silhouette look. He still favors broad-shouldered suits with slim, above-the-knee skirts. But everywhere else, skirts dropped to at least below-the-knee, and sometimes even to the ankle.Some designers even offered the same skirts in a variety of lengths.

The decline of the mini, however, does not mean that you can't still dare to be bare. Fabrics this season are lightweight, and see-through blouses were not uncommon in the shows. But unless you are a Cannes film starlet, you will probably want to wear them over camisoles. And for the truly cautious, there are clothes with chiffon inserts placed in revealing but not embarrassing places. To the great satisfaction of many women, chiffon has also returned in a big way for evening wear in flowing creations that look as if they were designed for super elegant automobile commercials on television.

In Europe, color is the biggest change this season, and we don't mean the season shift from autumnal earth tones to paschal pastels. We're talking COLORS! Wine paired with yellow, lime or acid green tangerine, chartreuse, and purple—strong, strident colors—colors that few will love at first sight—colors that probably only redheads can wear well. While colors added excitement to the spring

collections, they also may have added obsolescence. What looks so fresh this year may look terribly dated next year, like the topical jokes on *Laugh-In* reruns. So if you love wild colors, add a few items to your wardrobe that you can easily remove if the spectrum shifts back again. But because this is a season for alternatives, pastels were well-represented too. They were just jazzed up a little.

In New York, the big combination was navy and white, punctuated with lots of brass buttons *a la* Coco Chanel. White by itself is also big for cocktail evening wear.

With the spring showings covering so much fashion territory, it is difficult to draw conclusions. So we will defer to Bernadine Morris of *The New York Times*, who wrote, "In general, styles are soothing, the messages are generally subdued, and the range is wide. Easy dressing is the rule, and there are no great controversies. It is the time to enjoy pretty clothes."

The newspaper and magazine photo fashion layouts of the spring shows featured the more visually exciting creations from the big houses, and tended to overlook the simple items like the chemise. After making its first appearance in decades last season, the simple, slightly fitted sack is well on its way to becoming a new classic. The dress is ideal for this spring's lighter fabrics like silk crepe or a man-made substitute.

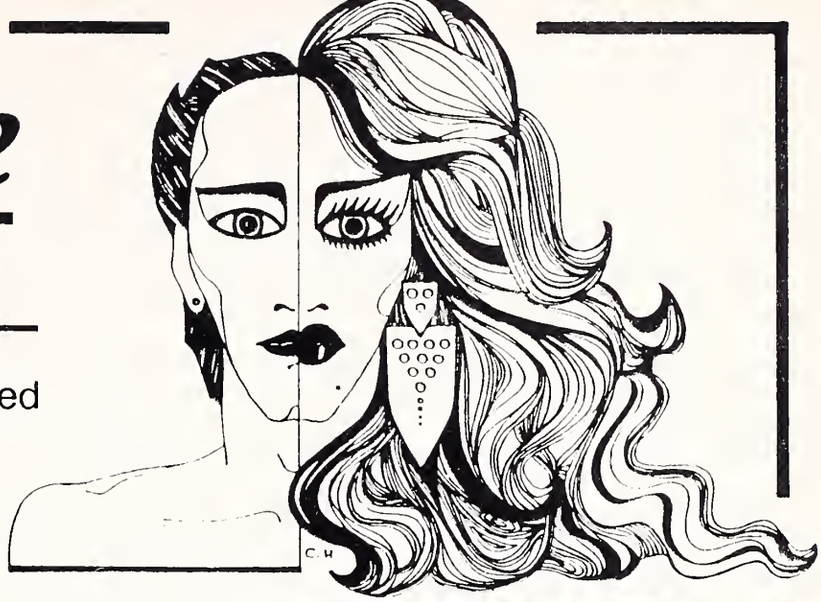
CROSSDRESSING TIP: *Because the dress works best when it lightly hugs your shape, you may want to investigate hip and perhaps fanny pads to add to your curves.*

The absence of a clearly defined "look" for the new spring season leaves slaves of fashion in a bit of a quandary. If you feel this way consider one other option in this season of choices—staying with the classics. Nothing can be more classic than a Chanel suit or coatdress.

The round neckline, collarless jacket with braid trim and gold buttons, teamed with a straight skirt, was revolutionary when Coco Chanel first introduced it during World War I. But it became widely popular in the 1920's and 30's. Thanks to Karl Lagerfeld, the House of Chanel has been updated for the '80's. But Lagerfeld did not make genuine Chanel affordable. Suits have an average price of $2,000 and blouses start at $500. And those are prices for off-the-rack, ready-to-wear!

However, the Channel look is so simple and so easily recognizable that fans who are a bit short in the purse or who simply don't want to be slaves to their American Express cards wear copies. If you want to go this route, there is no need to feel ashamed; Nancy Reagan's favorite red suit is a tribute to Chanel by Adolfo. Another option is having a suit made for you. The Vogue and McCalls pattern books have several suits and coatdresses that are almost direct copies of genuine Chanel. The trend has become so popular that some women have been known to rip authentic buttons off Chanel garments in stores for their custom-made clothes. There is no need to go to this extreme. With the right fabric, trim and buttons, all easily obtained through fabric and notions stores, you could have an outfit that is in fashion without screaming "FASHION!"

LadyLike



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Resources

LadyLike will try to keep an up-to-date listing of support groups and sympathetic businesses. Please let us know of any additions or corrections

• National Organizations •

International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778, $40/yr membership includes a journal "The Tapestry".

Outreach Institute, Box 368, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215. General CD information and a national newsletter. $5/yr.

Renaissance Education Association, Inc., Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, (215)-640-9449, $12 for subscription to monthly Renaissance News. Inquire about chapters.

Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Organization for Hetero-TVs only.

• Regional Support Groups •

• New England Area •

ConnecticuTView, c/o Denise Mason, Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460

Renaissance, Unity Chapter, M. Michaels, Box 362, Jericho, VT 05465.

The Twenty (XX) Club, TS support, Box 80690, Forrest Park Station, Springfield, MA 01138.

Tiffany Club, TV/TS, Box 266, Allston, MA 02134

• New Jersey/New York •

Butterfly Group, Box 7161, Endicott, NY 13760, (607)-798-8033.

Chi Delta Mu., Box 327, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, (201)-663-0772.

EON, Box 6293, Camillus, NY 13031.

Long Island Femme Expression (LIFE), Box 121, Ozone Park, NY 11416.

New York Gender Alliance, Penthouse B, 157 W. 57th St. NY, NY 10019, (212)-582-6823.

Sigma Nu Rho Tri-Ess, Box 467, Oakhurst, NJ 07755.

TGIC, Box 13604, Albany, NY, 12212, (518)-436-4513.

TVA, Box 92055, Rochester, NY 14692, (716)-458-7633.

• Mid-Atlantic Area •

Butterfly Couples of NOVA, c/o 4835 Del Ray Ave, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Delta Chi Chapter, Box 11254, Lincolnia Station, Alexandria, VA, 22312.

My Choice, 1417 McHenry St., Baltimore, MD 21223, (301)-792-9639.

Renaissance, Foundation Chapter, Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, 215-640-9449.

Renaissance, Reading Chapter, S. Marshall, Box 299, Oley, PA 19547.

TransPitt, Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230, 412-781-0257.

• Mid Western Area •

Alpha-Omega Tri-Ess, Box 954, Elyria, OH 44036.

Chi Chapter Tri Ess, Box 40, Wood Dale, IL 60191, (312)-364-9514.

Chicago Gender Society, Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657, (312)-231-8923.

CLCC, Box 16265, Minneapolis, MN 55416, (612)-822-9726

Cross-Port, Box 12701, Cinncinnati, OH 45212.

Crossroads, Box 1245, Royal Oak, M I, 48068.

Iota Chi Sigma, Box 20710, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

MFGE, Box 17945, St. Paul, MN 55117.

Paradise Club, Box 29564, Parma, OH 44129.

River City Riffles, Box 24060, Omaha, NB 68124

Western Michigan I.M.E., Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI 49501.

• South / Southwest •

A Rose, Box 4351, Scottsdale, AZ 85261.

Alpha-Zeta Tri-Ess, Box 8425, Mesa, AZ 85214.

Beta Chi Tri-Ess, Box 31253, Jackson, MS 39206, (601)-362-4549.

Boulton and Park Society, Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280, (512)-691-8915.

Central Florida Sisters, D. Larson, 107 Morelia Ln, Kissammee, FL 32743.

Delta Omega Tri-Ess, Box 461401, Garland, TX 75406.

Serenity, Nikki Bee, Box 307, Hollywood, FL 33022.

Sigma Epsilon Tri-Ess, Box 55144, Atlanta, GA 30308.

Tri Delta Tri-Ess, Box 533, Richmond, TX 77469

• Western Area •

Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Box 36091, Los Angeles, CA 90036.

CHIC, Box 562, Duarte, CA 91010, (213)-456-6511.

Delta Chi Tri-Ess, Box 6394, Ventura, CA 93006.

Double Image, Box 71795, Las Vegas, NV 89170.

Educational TV Channel (ETVC), Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Emerald City, Box 31318 Seattle, WA, 98103.

Resources

Neutral Corner, Box 12581, San Diego, CA 92112.

NorthWest Gender Alliance, Box 4928, Portland, OR 97208.

Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

Powder Puffs of Orange County, Box 3002, Fullerton, CA 92634.

Rainbow Gender Association, Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170.

Sacramento Gender Association, Box 38918, Sacramento, Ca 95401, (707)-526-2500.

• Canadian •

Cornbury Society, Box 3745, Vancouver, BC, V6B-3Z1.

FACT, Box 291, Station "A", Hamilton, Ontario, Que, L8N-3C8.

Gender Worker Services, Box 1224, Station "A", Toronto, Ontario, Que, M6W-1G7.

• Overseas •

GTA, Box 2, 1 Banks Bldg., School Green Rd., Freshwater, Isle of Wight, UK, P040-9AJ

Phoenix Society, Box 375, Parow, 7500, Republic of So. Africa.

Scottish TV/TS group, c/o SHRG, 58a Broughton St., Edinburgh, Scotland, EH1-35A.

TransCare, c/o The Minorities Trust, Box 2983, Wellington, New Zealand.

TransEssex, Box 3, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1PT, U.K.

• Boutiques & Businesses •

B&R Creations (Corsetry), Box 4201-L, Mt, View, CA 94040.

Dream Dresser, Loehmans Plaza, Pennsauken, NJ 08110, (609)-488-6279.

Fantasies In Lace, 3608 W.Broward Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL, (305)-581-2366.

Fantasy Fashions, 22968 Victory Blvd., Suite 196, Woodland Hills, CA 91367.

Fem Fashions, Penthouse B., 157 W. 57th St. NY, NY 10019

Lee's Mardi Gras Boutique, 400 W. 14th Street at 8th Ave. NY, NY, (212)-947-7773.

Lydia's Fashions, 13837 Ventura Blvd., Suite 2, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423.

NS Products (Mirage Breast Forms), Box 6678-L, Glendale, CA 91205.

Versatile Fashions, Box 1051, Tustin, CA. 92681.

• Services •

Gender Identity Clinic of New England, TS info, 68 Adelaide Rd., Manchester, CT 06040.

Gender Information Services, TS info, Box 9238, N. Dartmouth, MA 02747.

J2CP Information Services, TS info, Box 184 San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693.

J.L.White, image improvement and development, NYC, (212)-675-0204.

Mary Ann Calega, private counseling, NYC, (212)-929-6345.

• Recurring Events •

"Be All You Can Be" Weekend, put on by Paradise Club, Crossroads, Trans-Pitt and The Chi Chapter.

Fantasia Fair, once a year in October, in Provincetown, MA. Outreach Institute.

Paradise in the Poconos, 4days/3nights, twice a year, May and September, in the Pennsylvania Poconos. CDS, c/o this magazine.

Texas 'T' Party, 3 day weekend, Feb 23-25, 1989, contact Boulton & Park.

Tiffany Provincetown Outings, twice a year in Oct & June, Tiffany Club.

Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme", contact National Tri-Ess for details.

• How-To Books •

"Art and Illusion: A Guide to Crossdressing", by JoAnn Roberts. $10 postpaid. CDS, c/o this magazine.

"Speaking As A Woman" by Alison Laing. The only book of its kind to help you develop a feminine voice. $8.00 postpaid. CDS, c/o this magazine.

"How To Be A Woman Though Male", by Virginia Prince. Published by Chevalier, Tulare, CA., 93275. $10.

• Periodicals •

Crossdresser's Bureau, Box 172, Gurnee, Il 60031, $10/yr.

En Femme Magazine, Box 7854, West Trenton, NJ 08628, $30/year.

Transsexual Voice, Box 16314, Atlanta, GA 30321, $12/yr.

Transvestian®, 200 Main St., Tennent, NJ., 07763. Subscription $18/yr.

TV/TS Talk, Box 6322, Minneapolis, MN 55406, $21/yr.

TV/TS Tapestry, quarterly, published by IFGE, $10 single, $40/yr.

• Computer BBS's •

Carolyn's Closet, Minneapolis, MN. 612-452-2676. Free access.

891-1225

GenderNet, Oakland, CA. 415-763-5173.Public board, free and private board access.

JSS TV/TS Forum, Ocean County, NJ. 609-693-8849. Logon for access as follows. First name?: APRIL, Last name?; MAY, calling from America's Heartland?; YES, Enter password: FRIENDS (All caps). Access in 24hrs, under any name, you wish.

Vegas BBS, Phila., PA, 215-743-2572, Free access, but a small donation is appreciated.

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LadyLike Personals

101

(Dallas) - Sopisticated, ultra-feminine lesbian fox seeking correspondence, friendship and possible relationship with intelligent and empathetic GG.. I travel occasionally, midwest and east coast. I love letters from all, and promise my photo and letter for yours **(Debbie)**.

102

(San Diego) - I have been a TV since my teens, when I discovered the thrill of silks, satins, sheer nylons and spike heels. I enjoy relaxing in sexy lingerie, with a glass of wine and a good book. I like writing about my experiences, both real and imagined. I am a corset devotee, find tight-lacing exciting and have a strong interest in the pursuit of the erotic aspects of transvestism. I am an experienced photographer, both still and video. I am always looking to expand my extensive feminine wardrobe and exploring the infinite pleasures of becoming and being a woman. If you would like to share a part of my life and let me share a part of yours, either by mail or in person, please write **(Bobbi)**.

103

(Long Beach, CA) - Crossdresser with ultra-high heel fetish, loves to correspond and exchange photos with all. You will always receive a prompt reply and current photo **(Vicki)**.

104

(California) - East Bay Bi TV seeks others interested in cross-gender lifestyles, photography, socials and related topics. Discretion required and respected **(Crystal)**.

LadyLike Personals

105
(Chicago) - Married TV with very understanding wife wishes to correspond with TV's, TS's, couples who are into erotic dressing. Meetings possible. We enjoy formal dressing; stylish gowns and period costumes. Very discreet. Please send photo for reply.
(Priscilla)

106
(Louisiana) - Very clean, sexy, she male, wishes to meet or write to other sexy women, TS's and passable TV's. I love everything about being a woman.
(Jayne)

115
(Massachusetts) - I love modeling and corresponding with other TVs and gentlemen of honorable intentions. Please send photo for possible friendship. Complete discretion. Please be open and honest.
(Carole Anne)

107
(Illinois) - Looking for friends and assistance in the exhilarating world of TVism. I love being feminine and desire correspondence and possible meetings with like-minded people. I need discretion, but have no preference as to sex, age or race. Please send photo. I'm interested in expanding my feminine horizons.
(Laura)

LadyLike Personals

109
(Northern Virginia) - Gentleman, writer, photographer, seeks those serious about their femininity, for correspondence, maybe eventual meeting. If you consider yourself a lady and like to be treated that way, I'm interested.
(George)

110
(Massachusetts) - Boston TV seeking friends for correspondence and meetings, to exchange experiences and fantasies with those who enjoy dressing. Please send photo and will do likewise. Lets get together for shopping and girl talk.
(Adele)

111
(S.E. Wisconson) - Married TV with understanding wife wish to correspond and possibly meet with other TVs and couples with similar interests. We enjoy feminine dressing and lingerie. I travel Midwest and East Coast.
(Koni)

112
(Mass. & West Coast) - Executive Bi-WM TV, tall, slender and attractive, seeks fun, clean and discreet playmates. Travel U.S. extensively, especially both coasts. Love silk, lingerie and good wine. Your photos get mine.
(Michelle)

113
(Los Angeles) - Love to dress up as a lady and meet interesting TVs and crossdressers. I love shopping for feminine clothes and new wig styles. If you would like to share a part of my life and let me share part of yours, either by mail or in person, please write.
(Liz)

114
(Los Angeles) - Seductive, attractive TV, who loves being treated as a woman, desires correspondence, friendship and possible meetings with women, TVs and TSs. Shaved. Loves heels, snug-fitting panties and all things feminine. No drugs or cigarettes for in person meetings, but will correspond. 5'6". Thin. Please send S.A.S.A./Phone.
(Lori)

LadyLike Personals

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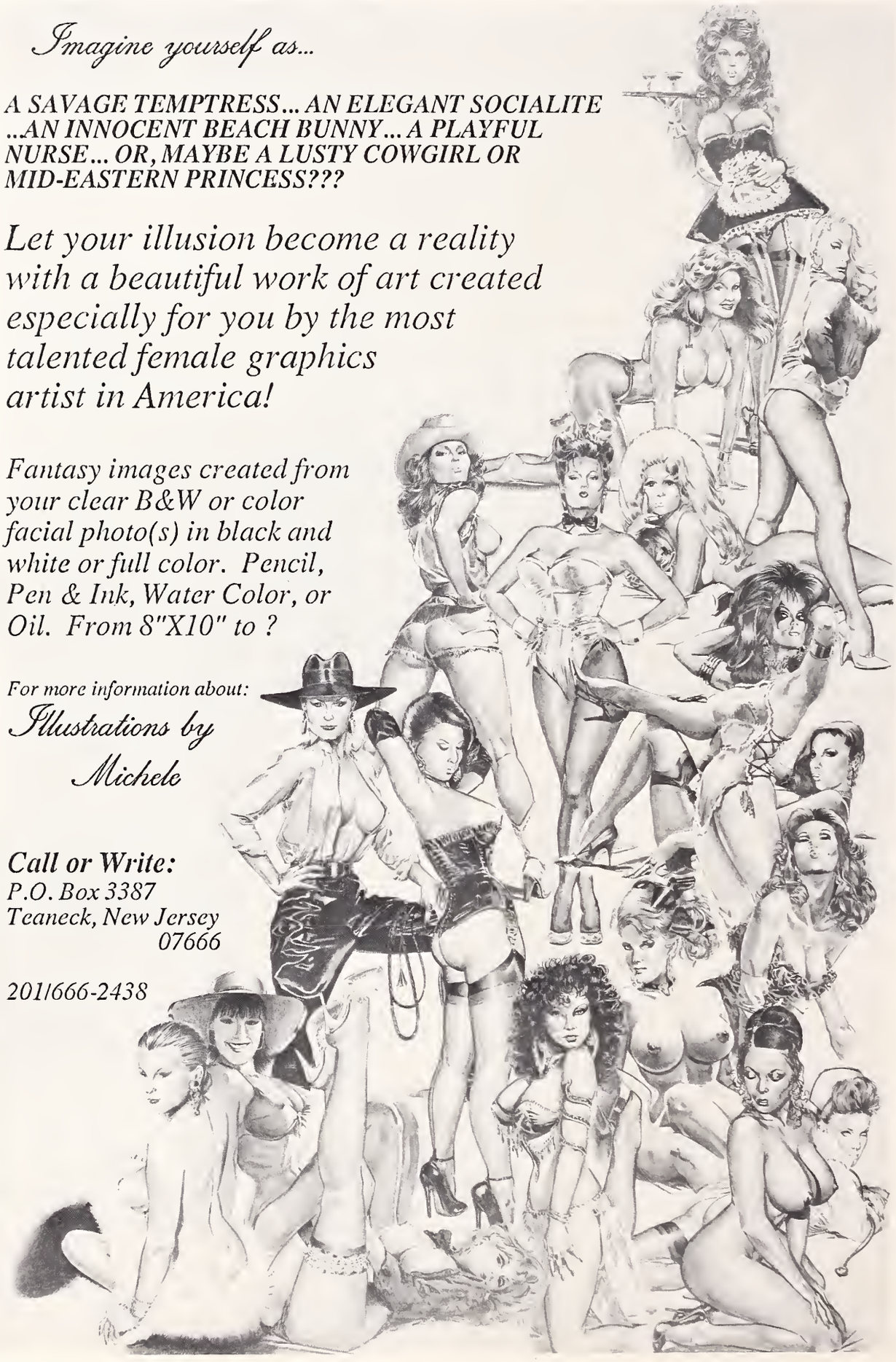

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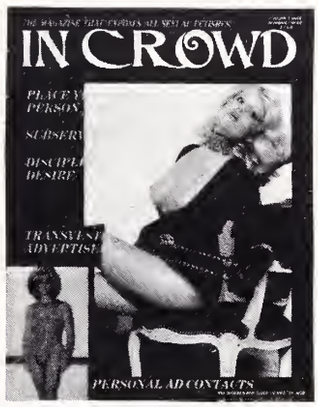

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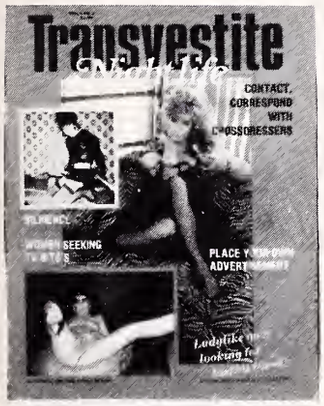

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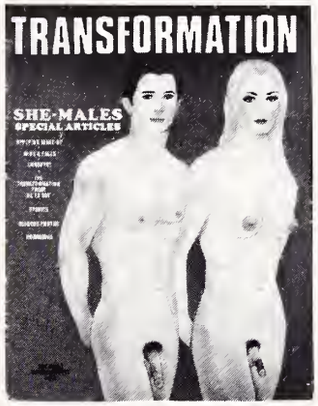

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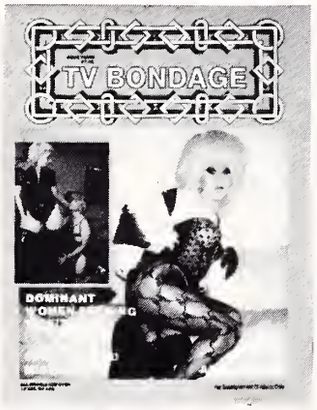

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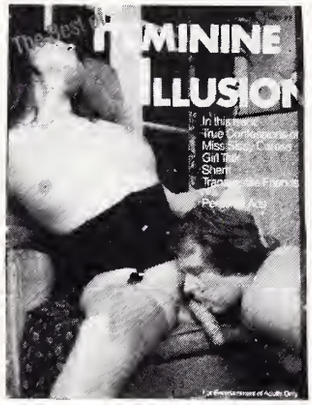

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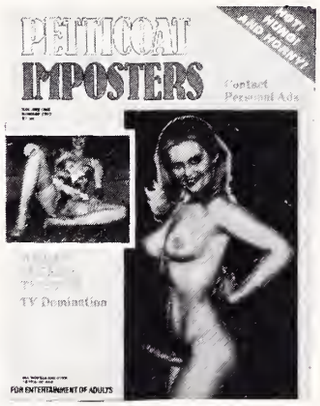

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